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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/757,999	01/16/2004	Dong-ha Chol	1349.1320	5021
21171	7590	11/29/2005	EXAMINER	
STAAS & HALSEY LLP SUITE 700 1201 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W. WASHINGTON, DC 20005			JACKSON, ANDRE L	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3677	

DATE MAILED: 11/29/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/757,999

Applicant(s)

CHOL, DONG-HA

Examiner

Andre' L. Jackson

Art Unit

3677

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 January 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-26 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 16 January 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 1/16/2004.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by USPN 6,684,456 to Lee. Lee discloses a hinge apparatus to open and close a cover (2) of an image forming apparatus, which pivotably connects the cover to a main body (4) of the image forming apparatus, to expose and cover a document glass, the hinge apparatus comprising;

a hinge body (126) movably inserted in a first direction into a coupling hole (41) positioned in the main body of the image forming apparatus, and defining a void (129) therein and supporting brackets (127); a pressure device (121, 125, 125') movable within the void, and biased toward a first end of the hinge body; and a hinge cam (113), connected to the cover, and pivotably connected to the supporting brackets, and slidably engaging the pressure device, where the pressure device presses the hinge cam.

As to claims 2-5, 12-14, 17, 20 and 24, the hinge body is provided with a housing chamber (130); and the pressure device comprises a pusher (121) disposed in the housing chamber that protrudes from the housing chamber and a spring (125, 125') disposed within the housing chamber to press the pusher. Further, the hinge body includes a second spring support (132), wherein a first end of the spring engages a first spring support (124) and a second end of the spring engages the second spring support. Moreover, the hinge cam comprises a body portion connected to the cover and a cam part (117) that pivots in close contact with the pressure device. The cam part and each of the supporting brackets are provided with a shaft hole (118, 128) respectively, and the hinge apparatus further comprises a hinge shaft (111) inserted through the respective shaft holes to pivotably connect the cam part to the supporting brackets. The hinge shaft includes at least one groove (112) and the hinge apparatus further includea at least one coupling ring (136) fixed to the groove of the hinge shaft to maintain the position of the shaft with respect to the shaft holes. And as seen in Fig. 6, a center of the hinge shaft is located toward the document glass compared to a pressure central line of the pressure device, where a center of rotation of the hinge shaft is offset by a predetermined distance to inhibit roatation of the hinge cam via a fixing part (135).

As to claims 6-8, 15, 16, 18 and 19, the pusher comprises a locking protrusion (123), the hinge body is provided with a guide slot (side walls between supporting brackets) and the locking protrusion is inserted into the guide slot, and prevents the release of the pusher from the hinge body. A first protrusion (114) positioned at one side of the hinge body, to prevent the supporting brackets from entering the coupling hole. The main body comprises a hooking portion positioned at one side of the main body of an image forming apparatus, and the hinge body

Art Unit: 3677

comprises a second protrusion (131) positioned at a first side of the hinge body, that is caught by the hooking portion, thereby preventing the release of the hinge body from the coupling hole when the hinge body is moved in a direction opposite the first direction.

As to claims 9, 10 and 21, the hinge apparatus is of a plastic resin material.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. In particular, Chen et al and Oshiro disclose opening/closing hinge devices useable with an imaging apparatus including a hinge body, a hinge cam, and a pressure device capable of maintaining a cover in a pivotable position and may be used to meet the limitations of applicant's base claims.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Andre' L. Jackson whose telephone number is (571) 272-7067. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. - Fri. (9:30 am - 6 pm).


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Judy J. Swann can be reached on (571) 272-7075. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 3677

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

André L. Jackson
Patent Examiner
AU 3677

ALJ


ROBERT J. SANDY
PRIMARY EXAMINER